

REMARKS

Claims 6, 12, 19 and 20 are pending in this application. Claims 19 and 20 stand allowed. By this Amendment, claims 1-5, 7-11 and 13-18 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 6 and 12 are rewritten in independent form.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments:

(a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration as the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; and (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

I. Allowable/Allowed Subject Matter

The allowance of claims 19 and 20, as well as the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 6 and 12 is appreciated, the allowable claims being in condition for allowance if rewritten in independent form to include all of the features of their base claim and any intervening claims. As claims 6 and 12 are rewritten in independent form, all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-4, 7-10, 13, 14, 16 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,155,689 to Isozumi et al. in view of U.S. Patent 3,527,121 to Moore in view of U.S. Patent 5,609,542 to Kusumoto et al.; claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Isozumi in view of Moore and Kusumoto, and further in view of U.S. Patent 4,249,964 to Banbuch et al.; claims 1, 2, 4, 7-10 and 13-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Isozumi in view of European Patent Application 0086494 to Seki et al. in view of Kusumoto; claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Isozumi in view of Seki and Kusumoto, and further in view of Banbuch; claims 1, 3, 4, 7-10 and 13-18 are

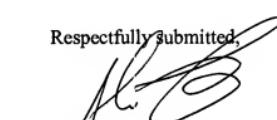
rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Isozumi in view of U.S. Patent 5,470,286 to Fan in view of Kusumoto; and claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Isozumi in view of Fan and Kusumoto, and further in view of Banbuch. As claims 1-5, 7-11 and 13-18 are canceled, the rejection of those claims is moot.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 6, 12, 19 and 20 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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